

only to the Thrushes and Chats of the basin of the Buffalo river, and especially to the Pirie bush in the eastern part of Cape Colony.

There are many other articles of considerable interest in other branches of natural history well worth the attention of our readers, and we must congratulate Mr. Haagner and his associate editors on their great success in starting this new society, and wish it and its journal a long and prosperous existence.

List of other Ornithological Publications received.

- American Bird-House Journal. (Vol. iii. No. 1, 1918.)
 Archivum Melitense. (Vol. iii. 1-4, 1918.)
 Auk. (Vol. xxxv. No. 3, 1918.)
 Avicultural Magazine. (Third Series, Vol. ix. Nos. 9-10, 1918.)
 Austral Avian Record. (Vol. iii. No. 6, 1918.)
 British Birds. (Vol. xii. Nos. 1-4, 1918.)
 Condor. (Vol. xx. Nos. 3-4, 1918.)
 Bird-Lore. (Vol. xx. Nos. 3-4, 1918.)
 Bird-Notes. (Third Series, Vol. i. Nos. 1-8, 1918.)
 El Hornero. (Tomo i. No. 2, 1918.)
 Emu. (Vol. xvii. pt. 4, 1918.)
 Irish Naturalist. (Vol. xvii. Nos. 6-7, 1918.)
 Journ. Bombay N. H. Soc. (Vol. xxv. No. 4.)
 Rev. Française d'Orn. (Nos. 108-109, 1918.)
 Scottish Naturalist. (No. 78, 1918.)
 South Australian Ornithologist. (Vol. iii. pts. 5-6, 1918.)
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XXXV.—*Letters, Extracts, and Notes.*

Colonel Tytler's Collection of Birds.

SIR,—Readers of 'The Ibis' will be interested to learn that after a long eclipse the well-known collection of birds formed by the late Colonel R. C. Tytler, C.M.Z.S., has come to light again.

This collection, well known by repute through the writings of Hume and Beavan to all students of Indian Ornithology, was originally housed in Simla by its collector and owner at his residence called "Bonnie Moon."

At Colonel Tytler's death the collection was lost to sight, and last year, when on leave in Simla, I endeavoured to trace it, without success. Curiously enough, however, a month or two later, on visiting the Lahore Central Museum, I learnt that the collection had recently been presented to that Museum; its history between the date of Colonel Tytler's death and last year has been as follows.

When Colonel Tytler died his widow, Mrs. Tytler, turned the house "Bonnie Moon" into a sort of private hotel. From exigencies of space the birds were moved from the Museum-room and packed away in boxes, which were stored in the house. The date of this would appear to be about 1873, as, when opened, the skins were found to be packed in newspapers of the dates 1871-1872-1873. In the frequent absences of Mrs. Tytler in England and elsewhere the boxes were not opened, and somewhat neglected. In 1907 Mrs. Tytler by deed of gift presented the collection with other property to her daughter-in-law, Mrs. Livingstone-Thompson, who, after some other efforts to dispose of it, sold it in 1909 to Mr. B. Bevan-Petman, the well-known barrister of Lahore. His intention was at first apparently to present it to the Tring Museum, but circumstances determined that he should give it to the Lahore Museum.

The Curator of the Lahore Museum very kindly asked me if I would care to undertake the work of opening and arranging the collection, so last month I went to Lahore for ten days to do the preliminary work of opening the boxes and seeing what there was.

The collection was found to be in a very unsatisfactory state, as was to be expected, after forty years' neglect. While a few skins were in perfect condition, many had been entirely ruined by damp and insects. Each skin was enclosed in a stitched envelope of newspaper; attached to the skins were labels giving the data, and a more or less duplicate label was stuck to the outside of the paper envelope.

I enclose a specimen of one of the labels.

COL. TYTLER'S MUSEUM.

Cat. No. $\frac{34}{2}$, Col. No. 316.

Gen. *Limnaetus*.

Sp. *nipalensis*.

Hab. Simla.

Sex. ♀. C.

R. C. T.

At present, after many vicissitudes, there are about 2500 skins remaining, many of which, however, are only worth keeping until they can be replaced by newer specimens. The collection is very varied and contains specimens from most parts of the world, Brazil in particular being well represented. There are many skins from the Andaman Islands, and amongst those and other Indian skins it is probable that fuller examination will reveal several "types," as Colonel Tytler was concerned in the discovery and description of several new species.

Unfortunately the Catalogues to which all the labels refer are at present not forthcoming. A lady resident in Simla, who saw something of the collection in the old days, has furnished the information that Hume borrowed without returning it—rather a failing of his judging from old ornithological correspondence!—and it is quite possible that the Catalogues are with his collections in the Natural History Museum at South Kensington. At any rate, I should be very grateful to anyone who can throw light on their present whereabouts.

Special cabinets are being prepared in the Lahore Central Museum, and it may be hoped that the collection will now be safe for many years to come.

Yours sincerely,

HUGH WHISTLER.

c/o Messrs. King, King & Co.,
Bombay.

10 June, 1918.

Types of *PACHYCEPHALA LITTAYEI* Layard.

SIR,—In 'The Ibis' for July 1878 (Vol. ii. Fourth Series, No. vii.), E. L. and E. L. C. Layard in the course of their "Notes on the Avifauna of New Caledonia," on page 255 described as new *Pachycephala littayei*, from the male, stating that the female was unknown.

Shortly afterwards Mr. Alexander Agassiz received from the Layards, from whom he was accustomed to get quantities of birds, mostly by exchange, two male specimens of this species, both from Lifu, Loyalty Islands, one of which, No. 29749 Museum of Comparative Zoölogy, taken 2 September, 1878 by E. L. Layard, is marked on the back of the label in Layard's handwriting—" *Pachycephala littayei* Layard, TYPE."

The following year (Ibis, April 1879, p. 190) Tristram described the female of the species, which in the meantime had been obtained by Layard, and figured (Plate vi.) male and female.

When, in 1883, Gadow prepared Vol. viii. of the 'Catalogue of Birds in the British Museum,' he claimed as types of *Pachycephala littayei* Layard specimens *a* and *b*, male and female, from Lifu, collected in August 1878 by E. L. Layard.

On the face of it, neither these nor our skin marked "Type" by Layard are types as we understand the meaning of the word to-day. All were collected after the species had been described. Furthermore, the female was unknown to the Layards at the time they named their bird. Obviously Layard used the word "type" in a sense not uncommon in his day, meaning a typical example of the species from the original source, and identified as such by its describer. Lawrence and other contemporary ornithologists frequently so marked specimens they sent in exchange.

The real type of *Pachycephala littayei* was probably

retained by Layard. Can it be in the South African Museum?

Yours truly,

OUTRAM BANGS.

Museum of Comparative Zoölogy,
Cambridge, Mass., U.S.A.

19 June, 1918.

Crested Larks of the Nile Valley.

SIR,—In ‘*Novitates Zoologicæ*,’ vol. xxiv. pp. 439–441 (December 1917), Dr. Hartert has again reviewed the races of *Galerida* from the Nile Valley.

May I, as a student of Egyptian Crested Larks for over eleven years, make some remarks on Dr. Hartert’s paper? The name *altirostris* was given by Brehm (Vogelfang, p. 124, 1855) to the Upper Egyptian form, and he clearly states the locality as “Oberägypten selten nordlich” (we now know that it is found on the poorer soil to the extreme north of Egypt, though Brehm did not know this). Any attempt to transfer this name to any other form is therefore misleading and against all laws of priority. Because the scientific name *altirostris* has been crossed out on the label of the type and again “underpunctuated,” meaning that it must stand after all, probably done by Brehm himself, in no way alters the fact that *altirostris* is the name of the “Upper Egyptian” form. Also Brehm’s type of *maculata*, named three years later than *altirostris*! (which I have examined and compared with a large series of my own) is not distinguishable from “Upper Egyptian” birds, as can be clearly seen when a large series is examined. Brehm’s Kom Ombo *altirostris* is rather ochreous in colour, but I have exactly matched it with a specimen in the Giza Museum from Giza, and with one from near Damietta. I also have a bird from Luxor which matches Brehm’s type of *maculata*.

This being so, we have only the two forms: *G. c. ægyptica* Nicoll & Bonhote from the Fayûm, and *G. c. nubica* Bianchi from Dongola, to discuss, as *G. c. nigricans*, the dark Delta

bird, is agreed upon by both Hartert and myself, as is also the very pale *G. c. isabellina* from Upper Nubia and the Egyptian Sudan. *G. c. moeritica* differs from *G. c. altirostris* Brehm (Vogelfang, p. 124, 1855) by having longer wings and, in a large series, generally having whiter underparts and smaller, more clear-cut spots on the jugulum.

G. c. nubica Bianchi is a totally different form, and is very close to and hardly separable from *G. c. caroli* Hartert, which Hartert does not mention in the paper under review!

The last paragraph of Dr. Hartert's paper is best answered by the last paragraph on p. 547 of my paper, Ibis, 1914, pp. 546-551.

That Hartert does not recognize *G. c. moeritica* from the Fayûm, alters Brehm's names in no way whatever. The earliest published name of the "Upper Egyptian" Crested Lark is *Galerita altirostris* C. L. Brehm, 'Vogelfang,' p. 124, 1855, and the selection of the type, whether it be from Kom Ombo or Aswan, is of no significance seeing that they belong to one and the same form!

The fact of "alterations" having been written, crossed out, and then underpunctuated on the label of the Kom Ombo bird makes or should make no difference to anyone, least of all to Hartert, who has frequently expressed to me personally and also done so in print that a scientific name on a label is unnecessary. When I wrote my paper on Egyptian Crested Larks in 1914 I had before me 136 specimens from Egypt, and although I have since added a considerable number, I have had no reason to alter any of the decisions I then put into print, but rather those decisions have been strengthened.

The point of these remarks is to fix the name *altirostris* to the form of Crested Lark which occurs from the Mediterranean coast of Egypt to at least as far south as Aswan on poorer soil than that inhabited by *G. c. nigricans*, the type-locality of which is Upper Egypt.

Hartert's selection of the type of *altirostris* as a bird shot near Ambukköl is most incorrect, as the Ambukköl referred to is south of Dongola and cannot by any stretch of

imagination be said to be in "Upper Egypt." The form occurring on the Dongola bend of the Nile is, as I have stated above, different from that found in Upper Egypt and must be known as *G. c. nubica* Bianchi. As I stated in my paper in 'The Ibis' in 1914, *nubica* of Bianchi has never been recorded from Egypt, nor to my mind is it ever likely to occur there!

C. L. Brehm's ideas of Upper Egypt and Nubia may not have been "very fixed," but he first described *G. c. altirostris*, giving "Upper Egypt seldom Northwards" as a definite locality, therefore his name for that form *must stand*.

Hartert's statement on p. 440, *i. e.*, "Brehm when first naming this form (Vogelfang, p. 124, 1855) said 'Oberägypten'" is not quite correct, for, in the description referred to, Brehm adds "selten nordlich."

We therefore have these facts to consider:—

In 1855 Brehm names a bird from Kom Ombo, Upper Egypt, as *Galerita altirostris*, giving the localities as Upper Egypt seldom northwards.

In 1858 he describes a form from Aswan as *Galerita maculata*. The type of this form can easily be matched with other examples from Upper Egypt, and therefore does not differ from his *G. altirostris* of 1855!

(Crested Larks vary quite considerably individually in all parts of their range, and one requires large series before "rushing into print.")

Hartert now wishes to transfer the old name *altirostris* of the Upper Egyptian bird to a totally different form from Dongola (which is not in Upper Egypt or in Egypt at all!), regardless of the fact that Brehm had already used this name for the Upper Egyptian form three years previously.

I have therefore nothing to alter or revise in my conclusions as given in my former paper.

Yours truly,

MICHAEL J. NICOLL.

Giza, Egypt.

28 May, 1918.

Mr. Jourdain and Nomenclature.

DEAR SIR,—I have no wish to enter into any controversy on the subject of Nomenclature. But I would like to record my protest against the offensive and insulting style of Mr. Jourdain's letter in the July number of 'The Ibis' in which he gratuitously insults an old and valued member, Mr. J. E. Harting. No one objects to fair criticism, but the style adopted in this case cannot be passed by without protest from all the old friends of the late Editor of the 'Zoologist' and the Natural History Editor of the 'Field.'

Yours sincerely,

Hever Warren,
Hever, Kent.
15 August, 1918.

E. G. B. MEADE-WALDO.

DEAR SIR,—The impressive warning given by the Rev. F. C. R. Jourdain in the concluding paragraph of his letter published in 'The Ibis,' 1918, p. 528, ought not to be lightly set aside. It would be a lamentable result if the friendship between the two English-speaking peoples were jeopardised by the use or misuse of a synonym.

Allow me to mention my own experiences. Some months ago I was staying at the Planter's Hotel, Charleston, South Carolina. Coming in rather late for dinner, my old acquaintance Samuel the coloured head-waiter set me down at a side table. Wild Duck was on the menu. "Sam," said I, "what kind of duck, canvas-back eh?" "No sah, mallard, same as you used to shoot with Colonel Stoney on the Ogechee." "Capital! our old friend *Anas boschas*, bring me some."

Sam looked very grave, and coming to me on tiptoe said in my ear: "Sah, dat word *bosky* is contraband; de ole Colonel Stoney, not young Colonel who is gone to France, dine here last week, and he eat some mallard duck; den he say Sam, de President give order at de White House dat dis duck be called *Platterinky*, not *Bosky*, when put on de table; so, sah, *Bosky* is contraband!"

New men, new nomenclature; not that of Alexander Wilson, Audubon, and Coues, (perhaps, after all, they were old fossils with just some rudimentary acquaintance with ornithology); and so ten-thousand names are to go because, it would appear, names are dependent on population. Since Mr. Jourdain assures us that an English-speaking nation a hundred million strong have adopted the name of *platyrhyncha*, which is known and understood from the Atlantic to the Pacific, it may be as well when we cross the "Herring Pond" to use that term for our old friend the Mallard.

My conversation with Sam, the head-waiter at the Planter's Hotel, is a confirmation of Mr. Jourdain's statement, that the alteration in the name of our familiar wild duck has taken deep root amongst the masses of the hundred million English-speaking people, "from the Atlantic to the Pacific."

Yours faithfully,

H. W. FEILDEN.

Burwash, Sussex,
20 August, 1918.

Ibis "Separates."

DEAR SIR,—Would it not be possible in the interests of working ornithologists to extend slightly the principle of "separates" of articles which appear in 'The Ibis'? At present these "separates" are only printed off in the interests of the writer of any article, who receives 25 copies of his article to present to his friends. It would be a great boon if such "separates" were available on purchase to members of the Union. There are many members like myself who work in foreign lands and therefore have to economise library space, yet it is just the worker in out of the way spots who wants to refer to the available literature regarding his station, and that literature is usually composed solely by articles in 'The Ibis.' To carry several bound volumes about just for the sake of two or three articles is often out of the question, while 'The Ibis' is too valuable

to cut up. Therefore I feel sure it would be greatly appreciated if members on opening and reading their current copy of 'The Ibis' knew that they could on payment receive a separate of any article which specially referred to their own branch of the subject or locality. One is chary of writing to members personally unknown to ask for a present of one of their separates.

Yours truly,

HUGH WHISTLER.

c/o Messrs. King, King & Co.,
Bombay.

16 June, 1918.

[This matter will be considered by the Committee.—ED.]

The Birds of the Somme Valley.

DEAR SIR,—I should like to add a few more species to the list of those mentioned in my article "Ornithological and Oological Notes from the River Somme Valley," that you were good enough to publish in the July 1918 number of 'The Ibis.'

Although the following species did not occur actually in the Somme valley, they were found only a few miles north of it, namely, in the vicinity of Montreuil-sur-Mer, and they help to make my article more complete, and, I hope, more interesting.

Pernis apivorus. Honey-Buzzard.

A nest of this species found early in May by a friend. Two typical eggs considerably incubated on 11 June. The nest was in a beech-tree, and was a large structure copiously lined with green beech-leaves and branches. The old birds were very confiding, and, except for the difficulty of seeing them when at rest, they were constantly observed. They were extremely silent, and only once was a note heard by one, personally, and that curiously enough appeared to one to resemble that of the Common Buzzard.

Iynx torquilla. Wryneck.

A nest containing newly-hatched young, in a hole low down in a pollarded willow near Bereq-sur-Mer on 25 June.

Phoenicurus titys. Black Redstart.

Several pairs nest among the buildings in Montreuil, and a male was seen and heard singing in June on a house-top in Paris-Plage.

Phylloscopus sibilatrix. Wood-Warbler.

A male in full song in a beech-forest near Montreuil in June. Presumably nesting, but nest not searched for.

Upupa epops. Hoopoe.

A pair successfully hatched out a brood in a hole in a walnut-tree situated in the immediate vicinity of Montreuil.

Willow-Tit. ? subspecies.

A nest with nine eggs on the point of hatching on 19 May. Swamp bordering River Canche, Montreuil. The nesting-hole was about five feet up in an extremely rotten stump, and nest an extremely scanty affair of wood-fibre and a few minute pieces of wool.

Hypolais icterina. Icterine Warbler.

Quite common in all sorts of undergrowth. Nests found in alder, willow, hawthorn, syringa, bramble, dogwood, and elderberry. I have no doubt this species nests in the Somme valley, and that I overlooked it last year owing to my hunting for it in marshes instead of in gardens, young plantations, etc., which it favours largely to the exclusion of marshy localities.

Pyrrhula? Bullfinch.

A nest with five fresh eggs on 30 June in an alder. Several pairs frequent the marshy spinneys of the River Canche valley, in the vicinity of Montreuil.

In conclusion, I should like to add that the Marsh-Warbler (*Acrocephalus palustris*) which I found common last year in the Somme valley is even more common in the

River Canche valley, and one has no sort of difficulty in finding their nests everywhere where there are osier plantations—and that is practically everywhere in the Montreuil neighbourhood.

Yours faithfully,

The Forest,
Kerry, Montgomeryshire.
18 July, 1918.

W. MAITLAND CONGREVE,
Major R.A.

Mr. Ogilvie-Grant.

It is with deep regret we learn that Mr. W. R. Ogilvie-Grant has been compelled through ill-health to resign his post at the Natural History Museum, where he has had charge of the Bird-room and the Bird-collections since the death of Dr. Sharpe in 1909. Mr. Ogilvie-Grant was appointed a Second-class Assistant in the Museum in 1882, and in 1885 commenced working in the Bird-room as a colleague of Dr. Sharpe. He became Assistant Keeper of the Zoological Department in 1913. Mr. Ogilvie-Grant joined the 1st County of London Regt. (Volunteers) soon after the commencement of the War, and it was while working on the outer defences of London in August 1916 that he got a sunstroke which led to further serious illness, from which he is now slowly recovering.

We hope that the relief from official worries and the quiet of the country, to which he has lately moved, will have a beneficial effect on his health, and that he will soon be able to resume his work in the advancement of Ornithology.

Notice to Members.

The attention of members is drawn to the fact that all communications to the Hon. Sec. and Treasurer, Mr. E. C. Stuart Baker, concerning subscriptions and the business of the Union should be addressed to him at the Chief Police Office, West India Docks, London, E. 14. Communications for the Editor and all books and pamphlets for review or notice in 'The Ibis' should be addressed to Mr. W. L. Selater, 10 Sloane Court, S.W. 1.